

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 INT-05 EB-07 HEW-02

CU-02 OES-03 COME-00 CEQ-01 EPA-01 DOTE-00 HUD-01

SIL-01 LAB-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /108 W

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R 281545Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 394

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL UNN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1885

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SG, PGOV, PINT

SUBJ: CABINET CHANGES

REF: DAKAR 1823

1. SUMMARY: CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED MAR 27 WERE NOT FAR REACHING. GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE WAS IN CONSOLIDATION OF POSITIONS OF LEADING CABINET FIGURES. ELEVATION OF JEAN COLLIN AND BABACAR BA TO MINISTERS OF STATE FOR INTERIOR AND FINANCE ALONGSIDE MAGATTO LO, MIN OF STATE IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH ASSEMBLIES CONFIRMS THEIR ALREADY CLEARLY ESTABLISHED PRE-EMINENCE IN CABINET. ADDITION OF N'XGOM AS FOURTH MIN OF STATE--A SURPRISE IN VIEW OF HIS LACK OF POPULARITY AND UNEVEN ROLE AS BOSS OF CNTS LABOR FEDERATION AND MIN OF EDUCATION. BUT N'GOM CONSUMATE PLITICIAN. AS ONE OF WEAKER MINISTERS N'DOFFENE
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DIOUF HAS BEEN VULNERABLE FOR A LONG TIME. DIOUF'S

DEPARTURE ONLY ELEMENT OF CHANGE FOR WHICH NO EXPLANATION
READILY AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH RUMORS THAT CABINET WOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY
CHANGED HAVE PERSISTED IN SENEGAL FOR LAST TWO YEARS AND
WERE HEIGHTENED AFTER RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS LAST
MARCH, LATEST CABINET CHANGES DO NOT REMOVE OR ADD ANY-
ONE OF GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE CABINET.
FURTHERMORE OF THREE MINS WHO WERE ELEVATED TO
MIN OF STATE, TWO, JEAN COLLEN AND BABACAR BA, HAVE
LONG BEEN MAINSTAYS OF SENGHOR'S GOVT--COLLIN HAS
BEEN MINISTER SINCE 1963. THIRD NEW MIN OF STATE,
DOUDOU N'GOM WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SETTLING GENERAL STRIKE
WHICH THREATENED SENGHOR GOVT IN 1968 AND LATER IN
BRINGING SENEGAL'S NATIONAL LABOR FEDERATION, THE CNTS,
UNDER FULL GOVT CONTROL. THOUGH HE HAS MANY ENEMIES
IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND OTHERS DISPARAGE HIS
TECHNICAL SKILLS, HIS POLITICAL ABILITIES APPARENTLY HAVE
BROUGHT ABOUT HIS RISE TO TOP. LYCEE STUDENTS AND
TEACHERS UNIONS, TWO GROUPS WHICH HAVE TROUBLED GOVT,
IN PAST HAVE BEEN KEPT UNDER CONTROL SINCE N'GOM TOOK OVER
AS MIN OF EDUCATION. IN FAIRNESS TO N'GOM, IT
SHOULD BE ADDED THAT SOME FEEL HE HAS WORKED HARD IN HIS
MINISTRY ESPECIALLY TO IMPROVE TEACHING FACILITIES AND TO
RECRUIT CAPABLE FOREIGN, MOSTLY FRENCH, TEACHERS.

3. DIOUF'S FALL FROM THE CABINET IS BIGGEST SURPRISE
AND A PARTIAL MYSTERY. AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION
PRA POLITICAL PARTY BEFORE IT MERGED WITH THE UPS, DIOUF
HAS NEVER BEEN AN INSIDER IN THE GOVT NOR HAS HE HAD
GREAT POLITICAL INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, HE IS AN ENGINEER AND
HAS MANAGED HIS MINISTRY WELL. FEW OBSERVERS ANTICIPATED
HIS DEPARTURE.

4. COUMBA N'DOFFENE DIOUF WHO WAS DEMOTED FROM MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO MIN OF HEALTH IN 1973, HAS
LONG BEEN CONSIDERED WEAK AND INEFFECTIVE. HE HAS PROBABLY
REMAINED IN OFFICE THIS LONG ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS TRADITIONAL
FAMILY AND POLITICAL CONNECTIONS IN SINE SALOUM. SIGNIFICANT
THAT HE REPLACED BY ANOTHER NATIVE OF SINE-SALOUM, MATAR
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N'DIAYE. N'DIAYE HAS BACKGROUND AS TRADE UNIONIST AND UPS
MILITANT. AT SAME TIME HE IS WELL EDUCATED WITH MD
AND CERTIFICATE IN GYNECOLOGY FROM BORDEAUX UNIV. AND HAS
HAD VARIED EXPERIENCE IN HEALTH FIELD SINCE BEGINNING WORK
FOR GOVT IN 1964. IN HIS LAST TWO JOBS DR N'DIAYE
WAS DIR. OF THE HEALTH SERVICE FOR CAP VERT AND DIRECTOR
OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN THE MIN OF
HEALTH. HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SENEGALESE RED CROSS

IN JUNE 1974.

5. ELEVATION OF MAMADOU DIOP TO MINISTERIAL POSITION
SEEN AS NATURAL STEP AFTER SUCCESSFUL TOUR AS SEC
GEN TO PRESIDENCY, A POST WHICH HAS BEEN STEPPING
STONE TO MINISTRIES IN PAST. AS SEC GEN OF THE
4TH COORDINATION OF THE UPS IN CAP VERT, DIOP HAS OBVIOUS
POLITICAL BASE. DIOP WHO VISITED US IN 1971
AS IV GRANTEE WAS EDUCATED AS LAWYER AND ALSO SERVED AS
OFFICER IN SENEGALESE ARMY FOR ABOUT 15 YEARS.

6. BEN MADY CISSE'S PROMOTION TO POSITION OF SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR PROMOTION HUMAINE OBVIOUSLY IN RECOGNITION FOR
FINE JOB HE HAS DONE IN PROMOTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
RURAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WITHIN PURVIEW OF HIS OFFICE.
CISSE HAS LONG WORKED COOPERATIVELY AND WELL WITH AMERICAN
OFFICIALS IN AID AND PC.

7. EMBASSY HAS NO PARTICULAR INSIGHT ON ELEVATION OF
MATHIAM NOR ARE WE ACQUAINTED WITH OUMAR WELLE WHO COMES
TO HIS NEW POST OF SEC GEN IN THE PRESIDENCY AFTER
WORKING FOR SEVERAL YRS AS ONE OF DEPUTIES TO SEC GEN.

8. PRESIDENT SENGHOR IS ON RECORD AS STATING HE WISHED TO
SEE WOMAN MINISTER ENTER GOVT SOON. FOREIGN MIN
SECK ALSO SAID BE READY TO RELINQUISH HIS POST AND RETURN
TO UNIV. OF DAKAR AS RECTOR. THEREFORE IT QUITE
POSSIBLE WE MAY SEE FURTHER CABINET CHANGES IN COMING
MONTHS.
AGGREY

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